

Library of Michigan

Service for the
Blind and
Physically
Handicapped

Call:
517-373-5614

Toll-Free:
1-800-992-9012

Internet:
www.michigan.gov/sbph

Online Catalog:
[www.michigan.gov/
ordertalkingbooks](http://www.michigan.gov/order_talking_books)

Eligibility:
Anyone unable to
hold or read regular
printed materials may
receive
this free service.

Services:

- Recorded books on cassettes
- Books in Braille
- Described videotapes
- General interest magazines

Gifts and Bequests:

- May be sent to the Library of Michigan Foundation

Focus 34 is available on cassette or in Braille. Call a reader advisor for more information.

This issue of *Focus 34* is dedicated to the memory of Brent Duncan, a staff member of the Library of Michigan SBPH for over 30 years. Brent died May 15, 2007. He is greatly missed.

Focus on Digital Talking Books

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is planning to convert talking books to a digital format. Recordings will be stored in flash memory, similar to digital camera cartridges. Talking book cartridges will be about the size of a cassette, slightly thicker, and beveled on one end so they will fit into the machine in only one way. In most cases, one cartridge will hold an entire book with no need to turn it over or flip switches. The Digital Talking Book (DTB) machine will be roughly 6x9x2 inches and weigh slightly more than 2 pounds. The debut of the DTB machine and cartridge is scheduled for the spring of 2008. At that time we expect to have preview models on hand. DTB machines will continue to be shipped in small numbers each month over the next few years until all talking book patrons have one. By law, veterans who want a DTB machine will have first priority. We are taking requests now; however, supply may not equal demand for the first few years. The current cassette player will be needed for magazines and for older books that have not yet been converted to the digital format. Call 1-800-992-9012 to let us know if you want to be put on the waiting list for a digital player.

Focus on Michigan Notable Books

The following titles from the Library of Michigan Notable Books list were published in 2006 and are available on cassette. Call **1-800-992-9012** or e-mail to **sbph@michigan.gov** to place a hold on any of the following:

Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder, by Steve Lehto. (The story of the 1913 Christmas Eve tragedy at Italian Hall in Calumet.) **LM8166**

Fresh Water: Women Writing on the Great Lakes, edited by Alison Swan. **LM8171**

The History of Michigan Law, edited by Paul Finkelman and Martin J. Herschok. **LM8167**

House of Fields: Memories of a Rural Education, by Anne-Marie Ooman. **LM8180**

The Mackinac Bridge: The Story of the Five-Mile Poem, by Gloria Whelan. (For juvenile readers.) **LM8179**

The Muskegon: The Majesty and Tragedy of Michigan's Rarest River, by Jeff Alexander. **LM8165**

So Cold a Sky: Upper Michigan Weather Stories, by Karl Bohnak. **LM8170**

Taking Care of Cleo: A Novel, by Bill Broder. **LM8182**

The Widower: A Novel, by Liesel Litzenburger. **LM8164**

William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate, by Dave Dempsey. **LM8169**

A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith, by Anna-Lisa Cox. (Chronicles racial integration of Covert, Michigan in the 19th century.) **LM8181**

Nicotine Kiss: An Amos Walker Novel, by Loren D. Estleman. **RC63945**

Saving Daylight, by Jim Harrison (poetry). NLS is considering either **RC** or **BR**.

Summer of the War, by Gloria Whelan (young adult novel). **BR16935**. In Process.

An Unquiet Grave, by P.J. Parrish (suspenseful thriller). **RC 64747**.

Focus on Returning Defective Tapes

You may have noticed a change on the return side of our mailing cards last spring. There are now three circles in the upper-left corner that can be checked as needed before mailing. The top circle indicates that the box contains a defective cassette. The next circle indicates that there is a defective (or missing) cassette in the box and you would like a new copy of the same book sent as soon as one is available. Please continue to put a rubber band or string around the defective cassette. The third circle indicates that you do not want a book sent to replace the one being returned. This would apply if you are signed up to have a book automatically shipped each time one is returned. Some people write the letter “N” on the card to let us know they don’t want another book sent. Checking the “Do Not Replace” circle does the same thing.

Focus on Contacting SBPH

In a perfect world we would be able to speak to each and every one of you at the time your call comes in. Regretfully, you are greeted by a voice message when we are closed or busy with another patron. After the recorded message, please speak clearly, spelling your last name. If we cannot understand who you are, we can’t take care of your request. Be sure to include your area code with your phone number so we can call you if we have questions about your request. Call toll free **1-800-992-9012**. You may also e-mail your requests and questions to sbph@michigan.gov or go to www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks to search the entire catalog and place an order. If ordering online, you will need your patron I.D. and a password of 6-8 characters. Call toll free **1-800-992-9012** to set up your password.

Focus on SBPH Computer Club

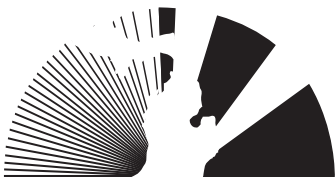
Join the new SBPH computer club! This club will meet on the second Saturday of each month beginning January 12, 2008. We will explore some aspect of computers, whether it’s a new program, how to cut, copy, and paste in Microsoft Word, or a new product that just came on the market. Meetings will be held in the SBPH public service area from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Scott Norris, adaptive technology coordinator, at 517-373-5516 or snorris@michigan.gov.

Focus on Talking Book Topics

The annual Cassette Book Catalog for 2006 in large print is now available. If you did not receive a 2006 catalog and would like one, call 1-800-992-9012.

How to Reach the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- By Phone:** 517-373-5614 – Lansing area
1-800-992-9012 – toll free
- By Fax:** 517-373-5685
1-800-726-7323 – toll free
- By Mail:** 702 W. Kalamazoo St.
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909
- In Person:** Our lobby is open 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday/Thursday and
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday
- By E-Mail:** sbph@michigan.gov
- On the Web:** www.michigan.gov/sbph
- Online Catalog:** www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks



Library of Michigan

Department of History,
Arts and Libraries

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**Free Matter
For the Blind**

Service for the
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